

NSC BRIEFING

3 June 1959

**BACKGROUND: THE 1945 CONSTITUTION**

- I. Under the generalized terms of the 1945 Constitution, the President is "vested with the Power of Government." This power he shares with the "People's Congress" which elects him.
  - A. Both he and the People's Congress, made up of the Council of Representatives (popular)--roughly equivalent to today's parliament--and delegates of regions and groups, have the power to propose legislation. Neither, however, can override the other's opposition.
  - B. In addition, the President has the power to promulgate executive decrees with the force of law. These stand unless disapproved by the next meeting of the Council of Representatives.
- II. The President is advised and assisted by a Council of State, whose makeup and method of selection is not designated, and a cabinet appointed by and responsible to the President alone.
- III. The major changes which would be accomplished by a return to the 1945 Constitution are:
  - A. Making the cabinet responsible to the President instead of parliament.
  - B. Reorganizing the legislature, presumably on terms established by presidential decree.
  - C. Placing the president personally in more direct control of the government.

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